Potentially Explosive

Intelligence Unit Votes To Release JFK Report

By George Lardner Jr.
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The Senate intelligence commitee voted 8 to 2 yesterday to make public a potentially explosive report on the investigation of President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

Vice Chairman John G. Tower (R-Tex.) said the committee provided for a waiting period in case last-minute misgivings should build up, but he said he doubted that the decision would be reversed.

The report, 172 typewritten pages in draft form, is expected to provide strong impetus for a new congressional inquiry into the assassination because the gaps and shortcomings in the work done by the Warren Commission.

Tower said he voted against releasing the report because he felt it would "raise more questions than answers." He said he was afraid the study might simply rekindle the long-standing controversy over the Warren Commission's findings without offering much hope that the issues will ever be definitively settled.

"I don't think the Warren Commission was wrong about who pulled the trigger," Tower said. But he added that "there are questions . . . very legitimate questions" that the select committee's own limited investigation have raised.

The other dissenting vote came from Sen. Barry M. Goldwater (R-Ariz.).

Several sources said the report would prove startling and will include information about Lee Harvey Oswald and others that should have been pusued, but instead went ignored.

The committee discussed the issue at a "closed-door session yesterday morning that was billed as its final session. The members agreed that their decision would not be considered final until 5 p.m. Friday—in case a majority, after reading the draft report, should change their minds and want to suppress it.

Tower said the committee also decided to turn over "certain files pertaining to Indian matters" to the Senate Indian Affairs Subcommittee, headed by Sen. James Abourezk (D-S.D.). But Tower declined to say whether they concerned recent reports and allegations of FBI misconduct at Wounded Knee, S.D.

Sen. Richard S. Schweiker (R-Pa.) said it will be about two weeks before the Kennedy assassination report can be made public. He said some of the agents named in the draft report are still "working under aliases and covers," and their names will be deleted from the published report.

The committee had already endorsed a continuation of the Kennedy assassination investigation by the new permanent Intelligence Committee that was established last week.

It will be headed by Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii), who sat in yesterday on the select committee's session.

Sen. Walter (Dee) Huddleston (D-Ky.), who was named to the new 15-member committee after serving on the temporary panel, said he felt there were, at least, "some loose ends to run down."

He said that he was not ready to say the Warren Commission was "wrong in its conclusions." But, he said, it is clear by now that the commission's rejection of any conspiracy was a conclusion "they made without having all the information they should have had."